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[No. 4.]

Congressional Documents.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, Nov. 17, 1842.

SIR: In obedience to your order, I have the honor to report the operations of the branch of the public service confided to my direction during the year terminating the 30th of September, 1842.

FUNDS.

At the close of the last fiscal year there remained to be accounted for by the officers of the department the sum of \$246,941 18
To which is to be added—

1st. Remittances in the 4th quarter of last year, - - -	\$773,789 00
In the 1st quarter of this year, - - -	313,415 00
In the 2d quarter of this year, - - -	70,550 00
In the 3d quarter of this year, - - -	495,809 00
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	1,653,563 00

2d. Rents and sales of public property, - - -	79,218 77
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Making a total to be accounted for of - - -	1,979,722 95
From which is to be deducted—	

1st. Expenditures in the quarters preceding 30th of September, 1841, but the accounts for which were not received in time to be included in my last report, - - -	\$22,479 13
In the 4th quarter of 1841, - - -	609,932 22
In the 1st quarter of 1842, - - -	424,854 76
In the 2d quarter of 1842, - - -	274,617 37
In the 3d quarter of 1842, - - -	316,672 19

2d. Repayments into the Treasury by officers accountable for public money or property during the year, - - -	18,433 25
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Leaving to be accounted for, - - -	312,734 03
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Of this amount it has been ascertained, by an examination of the summary statements of the disbursing officers for September, that \$158,450 of the remittances had not been received by them at the close of that month. The accounts of thirty-two officers for the 3d quarter are yet to be received, which will probably reduce the balance about \$13,000. The remainder, divided among about eighty officers, will be applicable to the service in the present quarter.

ESTIMATES.

The act for reducing the army, passed at the last session of Congress, contemplates the reduction of

the rank and file by the expiration of enlistments only. The expenditures for the current service of the department cannot, therefore, be greatly diminished during the first half of the ensuing year. I estimate that, during that period, there will be required the sum of - - - \$379,000
But there will probably remain in the Treasury, and in the hands of disbursing officers, after providing for all demands accruing in the present year, the sum of 304,000
Leaving to be provided by appropriation, - 75,000

For the fiscal year commencing the 1st of July, 1843, the sum of \$635,000 will be required; making the whole sum for the quartermaster's department proper, from the 1st of January, 1843, to the 30th of June, 1844, to be provided by appropriation, \$710,000.

In these estimates I have taken into consideration the possibility of movements being required on the frontiers to prevent aggressions on the neighboring States, and to preserve our neutral relations. The specific appropriations for those objects, with the exception of a small sum in the hands of officers, having been carried to the surplus fund.

For the active service in Florida a balance, it is believed, will remain in the Treasury on the 1st of January, 1843, sufficient to meet all demands to the 30th of June, 1844. I therefore present no estimate on that account.

Of the appropriation for army contingencies a sufficient sum remains available, it is believed, to meet all expenditures, such as are usually charged upon that appropriation, to the 30th of June, 1844, which renders an estimate on that account unnecessary.

Under the authority of the 3d section of an act of Congress "respecting the organization of the army," &c., approved the 23d of August last, I assumed the direction, early in September, of the Purchasing Department, in Philadelphia, and assigned Col. Henry Stanton, sen., assistant quartermaster general, to the executive duties. The judicious arrangements of that intelligent and zealous officer have already resulted in a better accountability and a reduction of expense, and I have no doubt that, by his untiring efforts, further improvements and reductions will be made. By a want of proper vigilance in recent inspections of shoes and other supplies, inferior articles had been received, and well-grounded complaints have come from the army of the quality of a portion of the supplies furnished. The proper measures have been adopted to prevent a recurrence of the evil complained of.

No appropriation will be required for that branch of the service for the half year terminating on the 30th of June, 1843; and, with the materials estimated to be on hand at that date, \$100,000, it is believed, will be sufficient for the fiscal year ensuing. For that amount an estimate is presented.

WORKS.

Of the works under the direction of this office, the barracks, quarters, and defences at Fort Smith, are yet in the course of construction. The force employed was reduced in consequence of want of means caused by the delay in the appropriation; but orders have been given to complete immediately as many of

the buildings as the limited appropriation made at the last session of Congress will permit. A further appropriation of \$20,000 will be required, as well to finish the works commenced as to compensate the Choctaw Indians for the lands adjoining, which are required for military purposes, and to pay them for building materials obtained from their territory.

For new barracks at Fort Gibson I have estimated for \$30,000. The barracks at that post are in a dilapidated condition, and the greater portion of them not worth repairing. They should be replaced by new buildings; not only the comfort, but the health of the troops, demand it. Much of the disease and mortality there may be ascribed to the bad and decaying condition of the buildings occupied. Considerations of humanity, as well as of sound economy, therefore, require that new works be commenced and completed without delay. The troops, with the aid of a few master mechanics, should construct them.

At Fort Jesup, in Louisiana, stables have been erected for three troops of dragoons, and temporary repairs have been made to the old barracks. Colonel Twiggs is putting up a saw-mill, preparatory to the erecting of new barracks, for which it is believed there is a sufficient appropriation.

At the new post on the Marmaton river, on the southwestern frontier of Missouri, barracks, quarters, and other necessary buildings, are being erected for the accommodation of a squadron of dragoons.

On False Washita, in advance of Fort Towson, a post has been established, and suitable accommodations are being prepared.

At Fort Atkinson such progress had been made at the last report, as to leave no doubt of the entire completion of the new barracks during the present year; the old barracks had been repaired, a magazine and stables erected, and the picket-work completed. An additional appropriation of \$6,000 will be required to pay the outstanding debts and finish the work. This work has been more expensive than, in my opinion, was necessary for one so temporary as all frontier posts between the Mississippi and Missouri must necessarily be. The Indian tribes north-east of the Missouri will soon be crowded out by the pressure of the white population, and the Missouri river will form the boundary between the two races. I would, therefore, recommend that no other works be erected between Fort Leavenworth and St. Peter's than the ordinary picketed works, with wooden block-houses and quarters, such as can be readily constructed by the troops, with no expense to the public except for nails, glass, and tools.

At Detroit an hospital and guard-house have been erected, and repairs have been made to the barracks.

Operations have been resumed on the works at Plattsburg; but those works cannot be completed before the next season.

At Fort Sullivan, Maine, an engine-house, and at Fort Preble an hospital, have been erected, and the barracks and quarters have been repaired.

At Fort Adams, Rhode Island, stables for light artillery horses and work-shops are being erected.

At Fort Columbus, New York, repairs have been made; but the accommodations are not sufficient for the garrison. Quarters for the commanding officers, as well as several other buildings for the preservation of the public property and for the prompt transaction of business, are required. Measures have been adopted to erect a suitable building for the commanding officer—the other store-houses may be postponed to the next season.

At Fort McHenry stables have been erected for two companies of light artillery; the wharf, which had been injured by a storm, has been repaired, and gun sheds, to secure the cannon, are being erected.

Repairs have been made at Fort Monroe to some extent, as well as at the posts in North and South

Carolina and Georgia, and at Fort Pickens, near Pensacola, Florida, and at Fort Morgan, Alabama.

Extensive repairs have been made to the barracks at New Orleans, and sufficient repairs to the other posts in Louisiana to secure temporary accommodations for their garrisons. At Baton Rouge and Fort Morgan, as well as at several other posts, extensive repairs, or entire new barracks, quarters, and store-houses, are required. For the repairs I have provided in the general estimate; and for the new structures required, I present a separate estimate.

Extensive repairs were required and have been ordered at St. Augustine, Florida; and the confident hope is entertained that ample accommodations will be provided for the garrison in the course of the winter.

To facilitate the supplying of the post on the southwestern frontier of Missouri, I recommend that measures be adopted to remove the obstructions to the navigation of the Osage river. Viewed merely in connection with the frontier defences, few works on the same scale are more important than this.

ACCOUNTS.

The delay in the settlement of the accounts of the Department at the Treasury still continues, and has become a serious grievance to all who are accountable for either money or property; besides, it increases the public expense, and renders the service less efficient. When accounts remain unsettled for several quarters, the presence of the disbursing officer, in most cases, becomes necessary, and the public not only loses his services for the time, but, as a matter of common justice, must pay the expenses of his journey to, and residence at, Washington. If the accounts were settled regularly every quarter, as the law requires, the presence of disbursing officers would rarely be necessary.

In January last I had occasion to request your attention to the state of the accounts of Colonel Cross, and several other officers of the Department, who, although they had faithfully applied all the money that had come into their hands to the public service, and had sent their accounts through this office to the Treasury within the time prescribed by law, yet owing, first to the delay in that Department in taking up those accounts for settlement, and second, to a technical construction of the appropriation laws, they were compelled to invoke legislative aid to close their accounts. The subject was promptly referred by you to the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives; but owing, perhaps, to a pressure of other business, it was not acted on. I beg leave, respectfully, to ask your attention again to the matter. The circumstances are as follows:

By acts of Congress of the 12th June, 1838, and the 3d of March, 1839, the appropriations for preventing and suppressing Indian hostilities, were made under seven specific heads. These divisions, in consequence of the constantly varying circumstances of the Indian war, were found extremely inconvenient in practice. It was necessary to place in the hands of the disbursing officers funds sufficient for every contingency; but it was impossible so to adjust the amounts to each officer under the seven distinct heads, as to have at all times in his hands the exact sums necessary, without placing larger amounts at his disposal than the whole service required; besides, it was impossible that any officer in the field could keep appropriation accounts, but each was compelled to apply the funds in his hands to all proper objects as they occurred. While, therefore, the aggregate amounts appropriated were not more than the service required, there were, unavoidably, excesses under some of those specific heads, and deficiencies under others. To obviate this difficulty, the estimates for 1840 and 1841 were made for gross sums, and the appropria-

tion granted accordingly. These gross sums embraced all the objects contained in the seven specific heads of the previous appropriations, and distinctly enumerated them. In the meantime, expenditures had occurred for objects under some of the specific heads of appropriation beyond the sums available under those heads; but as those objects were all specific, as so many items in the gross appropriations, it was not doubted that the expenditures were covered by those appropriations, especially as they provided for arrearages in all the preceding years; and besides, it was believed that the disbursing officers could not be placed, legally, in a position different from that of the claimants whose accounts they had paid. The accounting officers, however, having taken a different view of the acts of appropriation, legislative provision is necessary, and I respectfully ask your aid in obtaining it. No appropriation of money is required, but simply an act of Congress to authorize the Second Comptroller to close the accounts.

FLORIDA WAR.

I deem it to be due to the country, the army, and the department confided to me, to ask that measures be adopted to obtain by Congress, a minute, thorough, and searching investigation into the subject of the southern campaigns in all their circumstances and details. Charges have recently been made in a high quarter, affecting the character of the army for integrity as well as efficiency; and many of the facts relied on to sustain those charges have been taken from the business operations of the agents of this department, acting under the orders of the chief at Washington, or of the several commanders in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama. The high character of the individuals who have made the charges forbid the belief that they have been actuated by any other considerations than those of duty to the country; but however pure their motives, they have, by presenting and commenting upon isolated cases without presenting at the same time their attending circumstances, inflicted injuries upon a body of as meritorious men as any in the country, which, perhaps, no time can repair. It is greatly to be regretted, that, feeling it to be their duty to prefer the charges, they did not at the same time consider it an attribute of justice to give the accused a hearing.

That the expenditures to which they referred were large, every one knows to be the fact. Could these expenditures have been avoided? Before undertaking to pronounce judgment upon the officers of the army, that fact, it seems to me, should have been ascertained.

War, under the most favorable circumstances, causes a heavy drain upon the Treasury; but from the peculiar circumstances attending that in Florida, its expenses have unavoidably exceeded those of most former wars. In the first three months of hostilities, supplies belonging to the inhabitants sufficient for a large army during a campaign, together with all the available resources of the Territory, were destroyed. By the month of June, 1836, the whole peninsula, except the space within the chain of sentinels at Tampa Bay, was in the hands of the enemy; and hostile bands were spread over the country, from the Atlantic to the Perdido, and the utmost efforts were insufficient to protect the inhabitants from the tomahawk and scalping knife. The Indians having dispersed into small parties over the entire Territory, the operations of the army covered from three to six degrees of latitude, and nearly five degrees of longitude. Troops and supplies were necessarily drawn from distant parts of the Union, and were placed at the points where they were required, at a heavy charge; but so far as my information extends, no means were employed, nor expenses incurred, which were not demanded by the state of the service and the condi-

tion of the country. As to the prices paid, as well for supplies as for the hire of steamboats and other vessels, advantage no doubt was often taken of the public necessities, and greater sums exacted than under other circumstances would have been paid. But this could not be prevented, either by the officers who commanded, or those who made the contracts. Neither was disposed to cause or countenance unnecessary expenditures; on the contrary, it was the wish and endeavor of both to limit them as far as possible without impairing the efficiency of the service, and in all instances where steamboats or other vessels were forced into public employment at extravagant rates, they were discharged the moment they could be replaced by others on more favorable terms.

It has been intimated that contracts for supplies and other military means were given with a view to political effect. The charge, whosoever it may have originated, or by whomsoever uttered, is both ungenerous and unjust. The officers of the army are as much divided in opinion, in regard to men and measures, as the people of the country are; but that has had no influence upon their official conduct. Viewing themselves as the servants of the nation, and not of a party, they are governed in their duties by higher considerations than mere party interests. Perceiving no necessary connection between political preferences and professional duties, they have never attempted to influence the politics of contractors, any more than their religion; considering the former a matter between them and their country, as the latter is between them and their God.

CLAIMS OF THE CREEK INDIANS.

Justice to a deserving people impels me again to request your attention to the claims of the Creek Indians for services and losses in 1836 and 1837. The principles upon which these claims rest are set forth in my reports of 1840 and 1841. By the aid of the friendly portion of that people, the war in Alabama, that might otherwise have been protracted for years, was terminated in a campaign of sixteen days. The aid which I derived from the Chief Hopoeth le Yoholo, and the portion of the nation whom he influenced, probably saved the country not only from extensive depredations, but from the expenditure of many millions of dollars. I could not have moved as early as I did, with any hope of success, without that chief and his warriors; and had I been delayed forty-eight hours, the hostile Creeks would have dispersed, and we should have had a second Florida war, with all its expense and disappointments. A single incident in the war will demonstrate the importance of the services rendered by the friendly Creeks. I had, as stated in my report of last year, obtained, by the 19th of June, the control of every hostile band in Alabama, except one of about a hundred and fifty warriors under the Chief Oetiarchee. That band was then on the Chattahoochee, preparing to cross and flee to Florida; and they would have escaped on the night of the 19th, but for a movement made that day by Hopoeth le Yoholo and his warriors down the Hatchee Chubbee, by which the band was driven from the river and dispersed. A portion of them, consisting of one hundred and five warriors, with women and children, fled up the river, and were afterward captured. The remainder, from forty to forty-five, fled down the river. The latter reassembled, and on the night of the 23d of June, crossed the Chattahoochee, passed between the posts on the Georgia side of that river, and most of them, with their chief, got to Florida.

Oetiarchee is the last chief who has surrendered to General Worth. With the small force that accompanied him in his flight, he had committed the most bloody atrocities; and had kept Middle and West Florida, and the frontiers of Georgia, in a state

of constant excitement and alarm for more than six years. From what he effected with his small party, we may readily imagine the amount of injury he would have inflicted upon the country had his whole band accompanied him, or had any considerable portion of the hostile force been able to join him; both of which would have taken place, but for the zeal, activity, and fidelity of the friendly Creeks. The war having closed, and the hostiles sent to the west, the great difficulty was to remove those who remained. Many were opposed to emigration, and had a right, under the treaty, to remain; all desired delay. By the active exertions and influence of the friendly chiefs, the whole nation were induced to remove; and in less than seventy days all were actually moving to their new homes, except a corps that had volunteered for service in Florida, and their families. Promises were made to them which I had a right to make, both as civil commissioner and as military commander; and those promises, to fulfil which would require less than fourteen thousand dollars, have thus far been disregarded, and the national faith, solemnly pledged, violated. If Congress could be made aware of the importance of the services rendered by the friendly Creeks, the amount so justly due, would not, I am persuaded, be longer withheld.

With high consideration and respect, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,

Quartermaster General.

Hon. J. C. SPENCER, *Secretary of War.*

REPORT OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

Washington, Nov. 1, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to hand in my report on the operations which have been in progress under this office during the past year, together with estimates for the half year ending June 30, 1843, and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

In reference to the military defences of the country, the object of this department has been, during the last two or three years, as expressed in a previous report:

1st. To bring, as speedily as possible, into a fit state of service all the works which are near completion of the system of fortifications now under construction, and also all the old works designed to be retained in this system, adhering as closely as practicable to the order of relative importance.

2d. To place and maintain in a condition of complete repair and efficiency all the works of the new system that have been finished.

3d. To bring into condition for service such of the old works guarding important positions as cannot, for some time to come, be superseded by new works.

These objects have commanded the zealous efforts of all under the control of this department, and they have been pursued with as much steadiness as the fluctuating state of the Treasury would allow. Within a brief term there have been, as dictated by that condition, moments of rapid progress, of moderate action, and of rest. But still there has been an important advancement on the whole; and, although not accomplished on terms as advantageous as would have attended a more regular course, it is very satisfactory to recall the general result. Two years ago, excepting several unfinished works, the greater part of our fortifications were either in a state of deterioration from injury or abandonment, or of entire dilapidation from long neglect, so that there were considerable lengths of coast, including some of the populous cities, and the most valuable Government establishments, where hardly a gun could be mounted. It is otherwise now. And while every year will yield important accessions of

strength to a system of defence that is still far from complete, it is well to know that our present condition, even on some of the points where we were recently the most exposed, is one of comparative strength. It may be stated in general terms that, within two years, arrangements have been completed for mounting upon positions which are among the most important to the defence of the country 2,085 guns, including the requisite collateral preparations.

A large number of the works above alluded to have received from Congress all the aid that is now necessary, and will pass ere long out of the hands of engineer officers, and some of the largest and most expensive of the new system are rapidly approaching the state of completion. These circumstances introduce naturally the commencement of other portions of the system of defence, acknowledged to be of equal necessity; of these, such as it is thought should first be begun, are brought to notice in the geographical enumeration which follows.

I am fully aware that the rate of appropriation for this branch of the public service must depend on the view that Congress may take of our necessities on the one hand, and of our means on the other; and I know, moreover, that, at times, the Treasury may be unable to carry out the grants of Congress. Still, it is probably not beyond the sphere of my duty to advert merely to two important principles bearing upon the cost of works of this nature: *First*, economy of construction requires that the annual grants be as large as can be advantageously applied, the expenses of management and supervision being nearly the same, whether the expenditure be larger or smaller, and there being a considerable expenditure every year in adapting the work to the season. So far as the expenses called "contingent" are concerned, the same work may be erected for half the money in a period of five years, for example, that would be necessary if the labors were spun out to a period of ten. *Secondly*, the rate of appropriation should be as nearly uniform as may be for the same work; because, after the operations are once organized, any change will involve more or less loss, and, if the change be sudden and considerable, the loss can hardly fail to be of some magnitude.

As essential to the most judicious application of the moneys granted for fortifications by Congress, I beg leave to refer to the power in the President of the United States, during a recess of Congress, to transfer from one item of appropriation for fortification to another. Such transfers have been made under existing laws, but they have also, under the same laws, been declined as of doubtful legality. As important results are sometimes involved, it is desirable to obtain a clear expression of the intention of Congress.

Purchase of site and erection of barracks and defensive works near Detroit, Michigan.—The site has been purchased, and a minute survey of the ground made; the drawings of the details of the projected fort are now in progress. The actual commencement of the fort was postponed until next spring, in consequence of the Treasury not being able conveniently to spare the appropriated funds. The existing appropriation will suffice, it is believed, for the construction of the projected fort, including perhaps a portion of the buildings, and, accordingly, no further sum is now asked.

Unexpended 30th September, 1842, - \$46,324 20

To be drawn from the Treasury before

the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, - 300 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from the 1st January, 1843, to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1844.

Defensive works at Buffalo.—The site for these works has been purchased and surveyed; operations

on the ground have, however, been delayed by difficulties in securing good titles to the site, until it was too late in the season to carry on the labors with advantage, even if the condition of the Treasury had permitted expenditures. It is to be hoped that the works to be erected here may be commenced under the existing appropriation at an early day next year. The unexpended balance 30th Sept., 1842, \$31,250 To be drawn from the Treasury before the

1st January, 1843, conjectural, - - - 250

No appropriation asked for the half year from the 1st January, 1843, to the 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1844.

Fort Niagara, New York.—The new masonry of the lake front, the stone wall on the river side, the wooden revetment of the scarp, and interior breast height of the whole land front; the parapet of the body of the place, with the banquettes, banquette slopes, terreplein, terreplein slopes and ramps; the wooden block-house at the intersection of the two seawalls and the scarp gallery, are finished. The gates are hung and platforms of guns laid; the main ditch is pretty well graded, and the bank in front of the right face of south land bastion extended to cover the revetment of this face better; all the slopes in the interior of the work, and some of the steepest on the exterior have been sodded. The magazine has been lined, floored, well ventilated, roofed anew, and made bomb proof, requiring but a few days more work to complete it. Of the two block-houses, the masonry is very nearly completed, the roof of one on, and nearly shingled, and the interior wood work well advanced in both.

Present condition.—The main work is nearly complete, the block-houses still to be finished, a shot furnace to be built, pickets planted on the lake shore to mask the parade, drain repaired, and well sunk inside. With the exception of the labors above enumerated, which are indispensable to efficiency and preservation, the fort may be regarded as in a good state of defence—much better than it has ever been since it came into our possession; but something extraneous to mere defensive labors is required for the preservation of this important site.

The old sea-wall is found to need considerable repairs, and measures must be taken to preserve other portions, also, of the site from the abrading action of the lake; to which end an appropriation of \$5,000 is asked, to be made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844. All the funds now available should be applicable before the 30th June, 1843.

Unexpended balance 30th Sept., 1842, - \$7,462 04

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, - 1,000 00

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1843, - - - 5,000 06

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Fort Ontario, Oswego, New York.—During the year the superior slope of the parapet of the fort has been sodded throughout, the revetment of the counterscarp well forwarded, the remaining revetment of the demilune put up, and its embankment finished. In the main work the banquette slopes next the embrasures have been revetted with timber. A well, eighty feet in depth, has been sunk, forty feet through rock, and furnishes an abundant supply of water. The magazine has been finished and put in use. Barracks for the soldiers were nearly finished on the 30th ultimo, and will be probably quite so before the close of this season; officers' quarters were also commenced, but suspended for want of funds.

Present condition.—The work is efficient for defence, and all the guns are or may be mounted on the body of the work. The main body of the work

and the demilune may be considered completed; more than half the counterscarp revetment has been put up, and the embankment of the glacis throughout is essentially finished. The place of arms covering the postern is roughly graded, and the left branch of the covert way, with the place of arms on the front B C, is in the same state. The little remaining work should be applied at as early a day as practicable next year. A sea-wall is required for the protection of the site of this work, now being fast abraded by the lake. An estimate for its construction will be submitted; also an estimate for erecting within the fort a building to be used as a store-house for quartermaster's, commissary's, and ordnance stores, at the same time to serve as a guard-house, and to afford one or two officers; this latter building being now needed by the garrison should be erected early next year. The sea-wall may be begun after the 30th of June next.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, - - - - - \$6,000

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, - - - 1,200

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843, - - - 3,000

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending the 30th June, 1844, - - - - - 6,000

Fortifications at the outlet of Lake Champlain.—To carry out the purpose of Congress in appropriating for the defence of the outlet of Lake Champlain, negotiations were entered into for the purchase of Stoney Point, on the New York side, and Wind-mill Point, on the Vermont side. Numerous difficulties and delays attended the process of clearing the title to the several lots constituting these sites, until at last the purpose of securing those particular positions was abandoned by the Government. Some surveys have recently been made of the old position of Rouse's Point, with a view to the occupation of that ground in preference, should the terms of the late treaty with Great Britain be ratified; and the proper preliminary steps will be taken, in order that some progress may be made in the work itself during the next year. The unfinished battery left by the United States on that ground, about twenty-five years ago, having been entirely uncovered to weather, and seriously depredated upon, is but a heap of ruins, and will do no more than supply some materials to new works. No appropriation will be asked for these works at present.

The unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842, - - - - - \$73,480 16

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, - 400 00

No appropriation asked for the half year, from the 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Defensive works at the junction of the Matapamkeag and Penobscot rivers, Maine.—There was not time last year, after the grant was made of an appropriation for these works, to determine on the nature of the defences, or the mode of occupying the ground. Orders were sent in September to an engineer officer to proceed to the ground and make the necessary examinations, as soon as his other labors, which were very important and pressing, would allow; it was not in his power, however, to comply until the season was too far advanced for any such examination. A careful reconnaissance was made early this year, but before any thing definite was decided on as to the defences, that part of the political horizon happily became unclouded, and the necessity which was before thought to be somewhat urgent as to this particular object was supposed to have passed away.

The whole of the appropriation of \$25,000 remains

untouched; and I beg leave to suggest that authority be asked of Congress to transfer this sum granted for defence within the State of Maine, to the commencement of a fort at the narrows of the Penobscot, a position of much value, as covering important establishments, and shutting this great river at the lowest point at which it is defensible. The position was selected by the Board of Engineers, which also prepared a project for its occupation many years ago.

Fort Preble, Portland, Maine.—Repairs of this work have been limited to laying iron traverse rails for the guns and painting gate and breast-height walls.

Present condition.—The walls, embankments, and slopes are in good order, the work is ready for the service of all the guns bearing on the channel, and is in as good a state of defence as its low walls and contracted dimensions admit. It contains a small furnace for heating shot, in good repair. The two powder-magazines require additions to render them bomb-proof, and a drain requires some repairs.

The unexpended balance of appropriations on the 30th September, 1842, is considered sufficient to provide for some other slight repairs still necessary to the further preservation of this old work.

Unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, \$874

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, 274

No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January, 1843, to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort Scammel, Portland, Maine.—Operations have been limited to laying iron traverse rails for the guns, and making some slight but necessary repairs.

Present condition.—The walls, embankments, and slopes are in good order, and the battery is ready for its entire armament and for effective service. The work contains a small furnace for heating shot, in good order, a powder-magazine, requiring repairs and additions to render it bomb-proof, and a block-house, requiring partial repair, some change in its interior arrangement, and the construction of a small powder-magazine therein. An old battery commanding the eastern channel must be put in condition to receive a few guns.

The unexpended balance of appropriations on the 30th September, 1842, (\$4,859 02,) is considered sufficient to provide for the abovenamed objects.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842, \$4,859 02

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, 159 02

No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort McClary, Portsmouth, N. H.—The repairs of this work were executed during the months of October and November, 1841, consisting simply of laying permanent platforms for the guns, and slightly embanking the terreplein.

Present condition.—Walls and parapet of lower battery in good condition; parapet of upper battery requires some embankment; iron traverse rails still to be laid. The work has a small shot-furnace in good order, and a powder-magazine, which preserves powder well, but must yet be made shot and shell-proof. The old barracks are very much decayed. A block-house and two small flanking brick buildings, all of which will serve as barracks, are to be constructed to complete the defences.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, (\$4,995 04,) of which \$245 04 will be wanted before the 1st of January, 1843, will be sufficient to provide for the above-named objects without further appropriations.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842, \$4,995 04

To be expended before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, 245 04

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort Constitution, Portsmouth, N. H.—The repairs of this work, commenced in the month of September, 1841, were completed in November of that year, with the exception of placing the iron traverse rails, which were laid down in August and September of 1842. These repairs consisted mainly in laying the permanent platforms complete of the whole armament.

Present condition.—The scarp, breast-height, and parade walls are in good repair, as well as the eastern parapet. The powder magazines require additions to render them bomb-proof; a shot-furnace is wanted; various parts of the wood work, as platforms, wooden coping of parade wall, doors of posterns and gates, are either gone or decaying, and require renewal; and the west front requires additional defence against land approaches; including, beside the mounting of guns, a modification of the breast-height wall.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, (\$5,070 09,) will provide for these repairs and deficiencies, without further demand on the Treasury.

Unexpended balance on the 30th of September, 1842, \$5,070 09

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, conjectural, 270 09

No appropriation asked for the half year from the 1st January to the 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Sea-wall of Deer island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—The sea-wall of Deer island sustained some injury from the great storm that occurred in October, 1841. The larger and more exposed portion stood firm, and also the southern and smallest portion, but the middle section gave away in two places, requiring that a small part should be taken down and rebuilt. The season was so far advanced that nothing more could then be done than to repair the two breaches, and make a few other repairs deemed indispensably necessary to the security of the wall during the winter.

The sum now applicable to this object may be sufficient to complete the requisite repairs, provided the walls sustain no further injury during the coming winter, and without some such injury, nothing will be expended before the 1st of January, 1843.

Unexpended balance on the 30th of September, 1842, \$2,747 00

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 0 00

No appropriation for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Sea-wall of Ruinsford island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—The sum now available for this wall would have been applied during the present season but for the instructions to suspend operations; it is intended to apply it early next year, being indispensable to the security of parts of the existing structure.

The unexpended balance on 30th September, 1841, \$1,046 14

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 0 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to the 30th of June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Protection of Lovell's island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—I have to repeat my recommendation of last year, that an appropriation be made for a sea-wall on this island. It belongs to the Government, and lies immediately north of George's island on which Fort Warren is situated. Col. Thayer, the officer in charge, earnestly recommended that the wall should be commenced in 1841, as being then of "paramount importance," but no appropriation was obtained. The estimate of the cost is founded on a careful examination and survey.

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January, 1843, to 30th June, 1843.

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending,

June 30, 1844, - - - - - \$16,000 00

West Head battery and Southeast battery, Governor's island, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—The breast-height walls and parapet slopes of these batteries, are in good order. The stone traverses for the whole armament are laid, and the pintle blocks are on hand, ready to be put in place; both batteries, though neither is quite completed, may be rendered serviceable on short notice.

The unexpended balances will suffice to execute the work still necessary.

Unexpended on the 30th September, 1842, for West Head battery, - - - \$3,650 00

Unexpended on the 30th September, 1842, for Southeast battery, - - - 3,950 00

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, for the two batteries, conjectural, - - - 200 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort Independence, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—The labors of the year have resulted as follows: The parade wall on four fronts completed, and well advanced on the fifth; foundations of breast-height walls laid on curtain and flanks of two fronts, and part of the superstructure built; stone platforms for thirteen casemate guns laid; floors of gun-rooms laid in concrete; roofings of concrete and asphalt completed on four fronts, and part of the fifth; terreplein embanked on two fronts and part of another; completing the scarp of part of two fronts, completing the piers of one front and turning part of the arches and laying four cisterns.

Present condition.—The masonry of the main work is very nearly completed on four fronts, excepting the breast-height walls; on the fifth, the masonry of the curtain alone remains to be executed. The masonry and embankment of a considerable portion of the work are not in a state to be left unfinished without serious injury, and it is in all respects quite important that the operations should steadily advance.

Preservation of the site.—Of the sea-wall there has been laid during the season 647 cubic yards of the eastern section, and 1,836 cubic yards of the western.

The funds on hand are considered sufficient to complete the fort, except fitting up the casemates for officers' quarters and soldiers' barracks; for this object, and for the completion of the sea-wall, further appropriations will be required.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842, - - - - - \$68,009 00

Amount to be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, - - - 14,622 91

Estimate of amount to be appropriated for the half year ending 30th June, 1843, - - - - - 15,000 00

Estimate of amount to be appropriated

for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844, - - - - - 25,000 00

Fort Warren, Boston harbor, Massachusetts.—Since the last annual report, about 18,800 cubic yards of masonry have been laid at Fort Warren. Nearly the whole scarp is now completed, together with the piers and arches of casemates, and other masonry connected with the finished portions of the scarp; the extent of scarp finished and coped is 3,318 lineal feet, leaving 222 lineal feet, of which the superstructure only remains to be built. The coverface is completed from its right extremity opposite the left shoulder of No. 1, around front No. 2, to a point opposite the right shoulder of front No. 3, including the ramp and all that portion which is to be occupied as an advanced battery; the stone platforms for its guns have been provided, and are ready to be placed. The old sea-wall has been improved by laying thereon two additional courses of heavy granite blocks, substituting rubble and gravel for the earth in rear, and renewing the pavement; about 400 running feet of this was executed. Of the earthwork, about 160,000 cubic yards were excavated up to the 30th September, making about two-thirds of the whole excavation. The coverface, the glacis of fronts 1 and 4, and the embankment of the parade, are nearly completed, as well as the heavy excavation of ditch No. 5. Much of the terreplein and parapet of one bastion is embanked.

In the present quarter of this year there will be required to meet existing contracts, and to defray contingent expenses, the sum of \$40,639 32.

By means of moderate appropriations, the work may be completed within a period of three or four years at most. Assuming that operations will be continued on the most reduced scale consistent with the security of the work and a due regard to economy, the smallest appropriations that will suffice are, \$25,000 for the half year ending June 30, 1843, and \$50,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Unexpended balance September 30, 1842, \$73,639 32

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, per agent's estimates, - - - - - 36,373 32

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843, - - - 25,000 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844, - - - - - 50,000 00

Repair of old fort near New Bedford, Massachusetts.—The parapet and breast-height walls of this old work have been put in order, the interior graded, and permanent platforms laid for the guns. The scarp-wall would be the better for some slight repairs. The battery is, however, in as good a state for service as it admits; it deserves no further expenditure, as it must, ere long, give place to a work better adapted to defend this very important harbor. Under the alarm so justly felt not long since at the exposed state of this and other important harbors, it was designed, as being all that time would allow, to extend the existing battery so as to include more guns. Now, however, as that resort would after all be inadequate and very insecure, it will be best to substitute a new work of strength to resist a coup de main, for which, as soon as a project can be prepared, the sanction of the Government will be asked.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842, - - - - - \$382 44

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, - - - 300 00

No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort Adams, Newport, Rhode Island.—During the

year a sidewalk in front of the officers' quarters, the floors of several store-rooms, and the casemated space of the northeast bastion, have been paved with brick, and a flagging laid in front of the soldiers' barracks; partition walls of store-rooms built; doors and windows of west front casemates put up along the curtain; about two-thirds of the parade wall pointed; an enrockment made to protect the shore in front of the sea-wall of the northeast salient place of arms. In the caponnière the parapet and slopes of the lower portion have been sodded, and fifty gun platforms laid, and the materials for twenty more prepared for laying. The great southeast glacis has been embanked quite up to the true surface. At the redoubt about two-thirds of the counterscarp of the north front have been built; the scarp of the interior redoubt has been built up to the coping on all fronts except the north; most of the interior piers finished, and the three casemate arches of the east front turned.

Present condition.—The present condition of the work is such as to render its completion easy within the next working season, so far as time is concerned. The principal parts yet to be attended to are, the completion of the redoubt, the sodding and revetment of the east front place of arms of the fort; the completion of the wharf-walls; paving of the terrepleins of the west, southeast, and southwest fronts; building shot furnaces; erecting small magazines for the caponnière, and the pointing of the walls generally.

The fort proper is entirely ready for the service of all its batteries, and for defence against a coup de main. The matters above specified, as to the fort and redoubt, with several other small operations, are indispensable, however, to place them in a position favorable to preservation, and should be carried on steadily to completion. There will be much economy and advantage in completing every thing by the 1st of July, 1843; but if the state of the Treasury should forbid the grant necessary to that end, the less necessary portions may be postponed for a year, which will require an appropriation of \$10,000 for the first part of 1843, and \$10,000 for the year ending June 30, 1844.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842,	\$3,547 91
To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, per estimate of agent,	700 00
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843,	20,000 00
Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844,	30,000 00

Fort Griswold, New London, Connecticut.—The repairs of the advanced battery of this work were commenced about the middle of September, 1841, and by great exertions it was prepared for mounting a large part of its armament before the setting in of last winter. Operations were resumed in April last, and by the end of May the battery, though unfinished, was ready to receive and serve all its guns. It is now entirely finished, together with a new bomb-proof magazine, with the exception of some slight work, which will be applied before the close of the season, and the erection of a shot-furnace, which must be postponed until the next. No further grant will be needed for this battery.

Unexpended balance on 30th September, 1842,	\$3,464 81
To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843,	0 00
No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.	
No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.	

Fort Trumbull, New London, Connecticut.—Ope-

rations during the past year have been confined chiefly to completing the place of arms and exterior battery, repairing the old block-house, building the scarps and piers of the west, north, and northeast fronts of the main work, removing part of the old fort, and quarrying granite.

Present condition.—The exterior battery is finished, and ready to receive its armament, and its paradoss is nearly finished; the block-house in good order; the place of arms entirely finished and ready to receive its armament.

In the main work nearly all the rock and earth excavations have been completed. The scarp wall of those parts of the work where it was required to be renewed is well advanced, being nearly completed, except at the southwest bastion, where it is but ten feet high, and at the southeast bastion and south curtain not yet commenced. Many of the casemate piers are complete, and some of the arches turned. The amount estimated to remain unexpended on the 1st of January, 1843, will advance the work considerably, but it will be still far short of completion, or of that condition in which it could be left without material damage. Pains were taken to place the exterior battery in a state to serve with no less effect than the old fort, and this portion, therefore, has been finished for some time, but the fort itself, on which, in case of an assault, all must depend, is entirely open, and in a state far from completion; it is like a house with the walls half up. The available grants will nearly suffice till the end of June next. For the succeeding fiscal year a further grant is asked.

Unexpended balance 30th Sept., 1842,	\$20,506 42
To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843,	0 00
Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843,	5,000 00
Estimated amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844,	40,000 00

Fort Schuyler, Long Island sound, New York.—On the 30th ultimo the state of this work was as follows: The earth-work of the land glacis and covert-way completed, and the slopes sodded; the masonry finished, except a small portion; the exterior ditch not graded, and the caponnière for it not begun; masonry of the cover-face finished, except a small portion, and a part of the foundations for gun platforms laid; earth for the banquette and about half the parapet yet wanting. The interior ditch is partially graded.

In the main work the scarp of the land front has been carried up about fifteen feet, and a little done to the piers; the scarp of the water fronts, including the tower bastions, has been carried up above the second tier of embrasures which are all built.

The piers of the gun casemates are nearly completed, and some of the other masonry of these fronts laid. The stone platforms for the lower tier of casemate guns are laid, some of the arches in the bastions are turned, and the greater part of the girders of the floor of the second tier are framed and in place. Having brought the land front into a condition allowing defence to be organized, great efforts have been made so to advance the water batteries that on an emergency they might be used. Before the close of last year the whole of the lower tier, which would receive a formidable array of guns, was thus made ready; and now, on short notice, the second tier might in like manner be brought into service. The work is, however, entirely open to the weather, and the regular process of completion cannot be interrupted without serious hurt. With present means, and a small additional grant, labor may proceed judiciously till the 30th June next; after

that period, and for the next fiscal year, means must be supplied from new appropriations.

The unexpended balance on the 30th

September, 1842, \$32,783 03

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 6,080 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843, 3,000 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844, 50,000 00

Castle Williams, New York harbor, New York.—A large shot furnace has been built for this work, permanent traverse circles and pintle centres laid for the barbette battery, a new supporting shaft for the crane on the top of the castle put up, some flagging laid, and some repointed. The appropriation of 1842, most of which is unexpended, will be sufficient to enlarge the parapet, which is necessary to the security of the upper battery, and to cover the terreplein with asphalt. The expenditure lately made on this work, in the way of repairs, has brought its whole armament to a state of efficiency, and the battery is now a very powerful one. But it will need further attention before its many points, which are suffering under the effects of the weather, can be protected, and the whole be regarded as in a sound and lasting condition.

The unexpended balance on the 30th

September, 1842, \$4,557 46

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, conjectural, 500 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1844.

South Battery, Governor's island, New York.—A shot furnace has been built, and the permanent platforms for guns strengthened. This battery is now in a condition to use its guns with effect, but there is more work to be done to the interior, such as putting the magazine into a proper state. The available means will suffice.

The unexpended balance on the 30th

September, 1842, \$1,714 78

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 214 78

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fort Columbus, New York harbor.—The repairs here have consisted in lining with kyanized wood the magazines, making windows and doors for the same, repairing the shot furnaces, &c. Some other slight repairs are still to be applied, including some additional stability to the pintle centres, and the gates and drawbridges are to be put in a fit state for use. These operations are necessary to the preservation of the work, and to secure its perfect efficiency.

The balance now on hand will probably be sufficient for all purposes.

Unexpended balance on the 30th Sep-

tember, 1842, \$1,955 00

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, 0 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January, 1843, to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Sea-wall of Castle Williams, Governor's island, New York.—The whole amount appropriated for this sea-wall has been expended, and a small additional amount drawn from the appropriation for incidental expenses to allow the wall to be extended a few feet

to unite with the old castle wharf. This work has been laid in the most faithful manner and of the best materials, constituting a mass of unusual strength and solidity. At a future day, and indeed as soon as the Treasury can afford the means, it will be proper to carry this wall, though of greatly reduced dimensions, along such parts of the shore as are now unprotected.

There is no remaining balance for this work.

No appropriation is now asked.

Permanent wharves for Fort Columbus, New York.

The pier-head for this wharf (60 by 45 feet) has been faithfully constructed by the contractor. In appearance and workmanship it will compare with any similar work in the country. An abutment and bridge have still to be built to connect the pier-head with the shore, it being intended to leave a clear water way of forty feet between. Most of the materials for the abutment have been procured and preparations made for commencing it. The unexpended balance is considered sufficient for completion.

The unexpended balance on 30th Sep-

tember, 1842, \$9,449 40

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 0 00

No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January, 1843, to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Fort Gibson, Ellis' island, New York harbor.—

A shot furnace has been built, and some trifling repairs applied to the magazine.

The battery has been for some time ready for its armament—it being designed, however, in the coming spring to give some additional stability to the pintle centres. No further call is made for this work.

No balance remains for this work.

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Repairs of Fort Wood, Bedlow's island, New York.

The repairs of Fort Wood, including the building of a sea-wall for the protection of the island, were begun about the middle of September of last year. Before the close of the year the arrangements for mounting temporarily all the guns within the old fort bearing on the channel were completed; the temporary wharf was completed, and a shot furnace built. The sea-wall, which is to serve also as the scarp or exterior revetment of an advanced battery, was commenced in June, and on the 30th September 990 feet in length were finished, with the exception of a part of the coping. The earthen parapet above the sea-wall has been formed and sodded to the extent of about 300 feet, and its interior revetment of masonry raised to the height of 3½ feet for a length of 225 feet. Although greatly delayed in the early part of the season, by failures on the part of the contractors, the progress since has been very satisfactory, and the work executed has been of the most solid and enduring kind. In the early part of next year, it is hoped, with existing means, this portion of the defences of Bedlow's island, namely, the extensive water battery, may be completed. No appropriation is asked for the half year up to June 30, 1843, because of the remaining balance; but for the following fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1843, it is necessary to ask for the sum of \$25,000, as necessary to the prosecution of repairs upon the old work itself.

Unexpended balance on the 30th Sep-

tember, 1842, \$11,342 27

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, 0 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending

June 30, 1844, 25,000 00

Repairs of Fort Hamilton, New York harbor.—The work remaining to finish the barbette battery, magazines, and store-rooms, at the date of the last annual report, was completed last fall; the whole were placed in readiness for service, and the battery has since received a portion of its armament. This season the floors of the casemate battery were broken up, stone platforms, with iron rails, substituted for the decayed wooden platforms, and the floors paved with hard brick. The brick walls closing the flanks of the battery next the main gateway have been removed and replaced by iron gates, which has improved the ventilation of the battery, and will allow a free communication between the branches in time of action. Some other slight repairs have been applied; and this battery is now in perfect order and well armed. Such portions of the masonry as required it, have been pointed. The coping of the parapet wall was pointed with asphalt.

Present condition.—The water front is in good condition, both as to the service of its two tiers of guns, and as to preservation. The casemates on the land fronts show some leaks; their floors are much decayed. The casings of the doors and windows, and the furring of the walls, are also decayed. The piazza requires thorough repair. All the parapets, terrepleins, glacis, slopes, ditches, parade, and masonry of the work, are in good condition.

Advanced redoubt.—The masonry and earthwork are in good condition; but all the woodwork of the casemates requires renewing, and the parapet wall must be raised to its ultimate height. Both the fort and its redoubt are now susceptible of occupation and defence; but the matters above mentioned as needing attention, are of a nature admitting neither neglect nor delay. They originate in leaky roofs and imperfect ventilation; both of which should be remedied at once, in reference as well to the health and comfort of the garrison, and the safe keeping of stores, as to the preservation of the fort itself; and accordingly the repairs should be steadily prosecuted.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842,	\$6,077 97
To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843,	564 36
Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year from the 1st of January to the 30th of June, 1843,	3,000 00
Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844,	15,000 00

Repairs of Fort Lafayette, New York harbor.—The decayed wooden platform of the first tier has been removed and replaced by stone gun-traverses, with iron rails, and a pavement of hard brick laid in cement. The girders of the two upper floors have been strengthened, wooden centres and circles laid for twenty-six barbette guns in the third tier, and the floors of the second and third tiers calked and pitched. The parapet wall of the third tier, not being high enough to protect the men, has been raised two feet two inches; the coping pointed with asphalt, and the other masonry with cement. Flagging around the parade repaired. The wharf was repaired. The sea-wall was repaired and repointed; its coping set back flush with the face of the wall, and heavy stone placed in rear, to prevent injury from the recoil of the waves. The ground on the exterior of the fort has been regraded.

Present condition.—The repairs are completed with the exception of painting the new wood work, which will be done this month, and some other slight matters. The general condition of the fort is very good, and a large portion of its armament is now there, some of it in place. No further appropriation will be required at present.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842,	\$12,000
To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843,	200
No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.	

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844.

Fortifications on Staten Island, New York harbor.—The consent of the State of New York having been obtained thereto, the sum of \$15,171 97 has been expended within the last eighteen months in bringing into condition for service two of the batteries on the important position on the west side of the narrows. But there yet remains much to be done there. The water-battery, very essential to the defence, is in ruins, and the fort on the hill, (Fort Tompkins,) indispensable to guard the defences from being turned in the rear and rendered useless, is in the same condition. Application has several times been made for an appropriation to purchase these works from the State and commence operations, and it is to be hoped that for the reasons heretofore urged, this authority may be accorded. Even the sum of \$50,000, which would embrace the purchase of the site and the erection of small magazines for the service of the newly prepared batteries, would suffice for the present, and besides accomplishing these objects, would allow the exercise of the authority of the General Government in preservation of the property there. The officer of engineers who has made the repairs, says: "The tract is open to the trespasses of the cattle of the neighborhood, and of the idlers who constantly resort there from the city of New York." "These batteries are now in perfect order, but unless measures are taken for their protection and preservation, they will soon relapse to their former ruinous condition." I have in the estimates of the Department asked as follows:

Estimate of the amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending 30th June, 1843,	\$50,000
Estimate of the amount required for the fiscal year ending 30th June, 1844,	50,000

A suggestion worthy of consideration has been made, that Fort Gansevoort (a fort erected during the last war) and its site within the city of New York, should be sold, and the proceeds applied to the purchase of the State works and their site on Staten Island. Fort Gansevoort is in a position which is every day becoming more and more masked by the growth of the city into the river; and before many years its few guns, even if the expenses were incurred of putting the battery in good condition, would be less serviceable than if arranged on neighboring positions. And the addition to the strength of the defences of the city which would result from expending the proceeds of the sale upon the purchase and repair of the Staten Island works, would greatly exceed the force of this work, even in its best days. For these and other reasons of a like nature, I advise that Congress be asked to authorize the sale of Fort Gansevoort and the ground on which it stands, and also the application of the funds as above mentioned. I am not able to say what sum would be realized; but think if this course be adopted, that we may dispense with the sum asked for the Staten Island works in the estimates of this office for the half year ending June 30, 1843.

The state of the renewed batteries is as follows:

Repairs of Battery Hudson, Staten Island, New York.—The reconstruction of the old battery was completed last fall; since then three shot-furnaces have been built, and the south branch of the battery prolonged so as to receive thirteen additional guns, and to embrace the light-house within its covering line. The repairs and additions intended to be given

to this work are completed, and the battery is ready for service. It will be necessary, however, to add two or three small magazines, in convenient positions.

The entire cost of the reconstruction has been \$12,150 65, furnished from the fund for expenses incidental to fortifications.

Repairs of Battery Morton, Staten Island, New York.—This small battery was also completed last fall. It is similar in every respect (except length) to Battery Hudson. It has been provided with one fifteen-foot furnace, but still wants a small magazine.

The disbursements on this work have amounted to \$3,021 32, derived from the appropriation for expenses incidental to fortifications.

Sandy Hook, New York harbor.—In reference to the projected work on Sandy Hook, I have only to repeat what was submitted in my last annual report:

"The original project of defence for New York harbor contemplated two large casemated batteries on the shoals about three miles outside of Sandy Hook. They were designed to prevent an entrance into the lower harbor, a large and admirable roadstead, lying between the narrows and Sandy Hook.

"A recent survey of the exterior mouth of the harbor has shown, however, that the works would be unavailing, from the existence of another channel which they would not command. This newly discovered channel may, moreover, be the result of natural changes in the form and position of the shoals; and so long as this point remains unsettled, it would obviously be unwise to erect expensive structures that might be subject to, and even the cause of, other changes.

"The introduction into the naval service, within a few years, of numerous vessels of light draught of water, (which vessels could avoid any works erected on the shoals,) removes all reason for adhering to the original design.

"Abandoning the advanced position, a work on Sandy Hook becomes necessary, and its immediate commencement is urged, for the following reasons:

"1st. It will exercise an important action on the passage of all large vessels.

"2d. It will prevent the occupation of the best anchorage in the lower harbor by an enemy, who, anchored here, would at all seasons of the year maintain a perfect blockade. No stress of weather would oblige him to take an offing.

"3d. Although an enemy might perhaps anchor in the lower bay, beyond the reach of shot and shells from this work and those at the narrows, still there is no probability that the anchorage would be sought for any purpose of a blockade or investment, when it could be entered or departed from only by passing under the fire of the heavy battery now proposed.

"4th. It would remove the landing place of an expedition against the city or navy yard to a considerable distance from both; whereas such a landing could now be made within five or six miles of the latter, with no obstacle intervening between the enemy and his object.

"Many other advantages might be enumerated. The above are deemed sufficient, however, to show the necessity of a work on the point named.

"For the commencement of such a work the sum of \$50,000 is asked," to be expended in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Fort Mifflin, Delaware river.—From a recent inspection by an engineer officer, it appears that there are several slight repairs to be applied, of which that of the dike is the most important. The magazines require repair also.

I hope to be able to spare the services of an officer to execute the more necessary work next season, for which the available funds will be sufficient. Notwithstanding the necessity for the labor adverted to above, this fort is in a condition to render important

service. Being the only fortification between Philadelphia and the sea, it is important that it be maintained in good condition.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, \$5,000

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, 00

No appropriation asked for the half year, from January 1 to June 30, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Fort Delaware, Peapatch island, Delaware bay.—Operations on this work are still awaiting the adjustment of the title to the island.

No appropriation is asked for this work.

Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland.—A portion of the appropriation for incidental expenses of fortifications, has been applied this season to the repair of the sea-wall injured by a storm, and the erection of two shot-furnaces. Nothing further is proposed, except to put a masonry blind before the door of the magazine, for which the funds will be drawn from the same source.

No balance remains. No appropriation is asked.

Fort on Sollers's point flats, Baltimore harbor, Maryland.—I have again to renew the proposition to commence this work which was contained in the annual report from this office for the year 1839, repeating the words of that recommendation: "With Fort McHenry as the only defensive work between Baltimore and the Chesapeake bay, that city is wholly without defence against an attack by land—such, for instance, as was undertaken by the English during the last war—and is, at the same time, not adequately protected from an attack by the river.

"The first step to be taken in the creation of a better system of defence for this harbor, is the erection of a strong casemated-battery on the outer extremity of Sollers's point flats, a work projected by the board of engineers many years ago. This work being completed, the channel of the river will be powerfully commanded; and an enterprise advancing against the city from North point or along the opposite shore, will be liable to be cut off from all retreat by troops thrown across the river, or sent down the river and landed near the work.

"The position is a good one; the work is indispensable to the security of Baltimore; and, as much time must necessarily be consumed in raising the foundations out of water, it seems important that immediate measures be taken for the commencement of the work, and to this end, a small appropriation is asked for next year."

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year ending June 30, 1843, \$25,000

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844, 25,000

Fort in Annapolis harbor, Maryland.—Owing to the want of an officer to take charge of these repairs, nothing has yet been done in fulfillment of the object of the appropriation. It is expected, if the funds are available, that the contemplated repairs may be commenced at an early day next year.

Unexpended balance September 30, 1842, . . . \$5,000
To be drawn from the Treasury before January 1, 1843, 0 00

No appropriation asked for the half year ending June 30, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

Repairs of Fort Washington, Maryland.—During the year, eighteen hundred running feet of coping were taken up from the parapet of main work and the scarp-wall of the demilune; a large portion of it redressed and modified, and defective stone replaced

with new. Most of the parapet of main work was pointed with asphalt, and received a covering of the same between the two copings half an inch thick. The modification of the parapet of the right face of the water front was completed; two shot-furnaces built; the interior slope of demilune revetted with kyanized wood, and the whole parapet reformed and sodded. The three magazines were lined with kyanized wood, and the other interior arrangements for ventilation and protection completed; they were also made bomb-proof, and are now in perfect order. Some small repairs applied to scarp and counter-scarp of demilune; some inconsiderable excavations and embankments of earth were made. A considerable portion of the armament of this work was received in the summer, and mounted by the engineer officer.

Present condition.—As mentioned in the last annual report, this work has never been finished, and requires considerable additions to put it in a state of security. Our recent labors have been applied to the preparation of an efficient battery for the control of the channel, omitting every thing not tending to this end. This has been accomplished to an extent quite as great as was anticipated.

The existing masonry is generally in good condition, but the casemates leak, and require protection. There are some minor repairs to be applied to the interior. The available funds will carry on the operations at a moderate rate until after the 30th June next, and a small appropriation is asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1844.

The unexpended balance on the 30th September, 1842, - - - - - \$23,340 77

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st January, 1843, - - - - - 1,000 00

No appropriation asked for the half year, from 1st January to 30th June, 1843.

Estimate of the amount to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1844, - - - - - \$15,000 00

Fort Monroe, Hampton Roads, Virginia.—Since the annual report of 1841, the repairs of Fort Monroe advanced without interruption until July, when they were suspended under general instructions from the War Office. In that time, fronts No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, have been completed, with some slight exceptions, and are ready for their armament. The guns on No. 4 are mounted; No. 5, with the exception of the left flank, and a small portion of the left face, requires the setting of only five stone traverses, to be ready for service. On front No. 6, little remains to be done; the slopes and sodding are completed, except on left face; concrete foundations for the traverses are laid, and the pintle blocks ready to be placed; one of its ramps is yet unfinished. The terreplein of this front, and of No. 5, is not yet graded. On No. 7, all the guns but three can be mounted; the rampart slope is not yet arranged, and the wing-walls of the gateway are not completed; place of arms over the gateway not quite finished. The arches of the advanced battery of front No. 4, have been covered with bituminous cement, the sand and soil filled in, and the slopes sodded. A considerable portion of the covertway of fronts 5 and 6 has been embanked, and foundations laid for the breast-height walls.

From the above statement, taken in connection with preceding annual reports, it will appear that this fort is now ready for important service both toward the water and the land. Particular pains have been taken to advance first those matters which were most essential to actual service, leaving things that were less prominent in that way, although not less indispensable to security and preservation, to be brought forward at more leisure. The system now organized would soon place every thing in a state so

finished and secure, as to be, with reasonable care, for a long time, entirely exempt from decay or injury; and it is to be hoped that nothing will prevent, or materially retard this result.

The last report from the engineer officer in charge shows that, in a violent storm in August last, there was a dangerous encroachment upon the beach opposite to one of the bastions; this will need early attention.

A contracted scale of operations will carry the funds now available with a small addition through the first half of next year. An additional grant will be necessary for the year ending June 30, 1844.

The unexpended balance on the 30th of September, 1842, - - - - - \$38,076 82

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, - - - - - 20,000 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the half year, from 1st of January to 30th of June, 1843, - - - - - 25,000 00

Estimate of amount required to be appropriated for the fiscal year ending 30th of June, 1844, - - - - - 50,000 00

Fort Calhoun, Hampton Roads, Virginia.—It is known that, in consequence of the subsidence of the foundations of this work, it was found necessary to load them with a heavy weight, greater than that ultimately to be sustained, and to wait till all subsidence had ceased before beginning the actual masonry. The labor of loading the piers ceased in December, 1841, and from that period until May, 1842, the laborers were engaged in leveling and otherwise regulating the exterior surface of the main base and the interior area of the fort: the force was then withdrawn, and the work allowed to rest; there is, at this time, an excess of 13,627 tons of stone upon the foundations beyond the ultimate weight to be supported. The subsidence at the centre of the mass, the past year, was less than half an inch: the average subsidence at the embrasures about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch, which, compared with former years, being in a decreasing ratio, confirms the policy which dictated the resort, and is very encouraging.

Prudence, however, demands still further delay, and the actual work should not be begun until the present mass has stood one full year without producing any appreciable settlement. No further appropriation is therefore asked for this fort at present.

The unexpended balance on the 30th of September, 1842, - - - - - \$28,072 92

To be drawn from the Treasury before the 1st of January, 1843, - - - - - 0 00

No appropriation asked for the half year from 1st of January to the 30th of June, 1843.

No appropriation asked for the fiscal year ending the 30th of June, 1844.

(To be continued.)

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

[OFFICIAL.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Information has been officially received by the Secretary of State, from the Belgian Government, that the new light house at Heyst, in West Flanders, being completed, it will be lighted at sun set on every evening hereafter. The light will be red, it will be constant, and will be visible at the distance of two and a half sea leagues. It stands on the sands north of the village of Heyst, in latitude of 51 degrees, 20 minutes, and 22 seconds north, and in longitude of 53 minutes 50 seconds east of Paris, or 3 degrees, 14 minutes, and 13 seconds east of Greenwich, upon a tower twenty-five feet in height.

The fisherman's light at Blankenberg, in latitude of 51 degrees, 18 minutes, and 55 seconds north, and in longitude of 47 minutes 4 seconds east of Paris, or 3 degrees 8 minutes east of Greenwich, will also be lighted during the whole of the night hereafter.

WASHINGTON.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1843.

BOAT-YARD IN THE WEST.

Public attention in the west is beginning to look to the establishment of a national boat-yard on the Mississippi. We consider it a matter of great public interest; and some of the towns, and even States of the west, so viewing it, have taken it up in good earnest. The Legislature of Tennessee has laid before Congress a series of well-drawn resolutions on the subject; memorials and petitions, too, relating to it have been presented from that quarter both to Congress and the Executive; and there is a bill now before the Senate directing the preliminary measures for establishing a dock for steamers in the west.

England and France have possessions in the West Indies, which are strongly fortified, and would afford convenient places of rendezvous for the land and sea forces of either in time of war with us. Texas and Mexico, the states of Central America, and what was once Colombia, all border on the gulf; and Hayti and Cuba—the jewel of the group—are in the midst of this mediterranean gulf.

In the event of war with any of these people or nations, we are to be attacked in our weak points from their strongholds in the gulf. The gulf region is the place in which we are most vulnerable from without and assailable from within. There, more than in any other section, we are surrounded by nations and people who, in war, would prove troublesome neighbors.

In view of these circumstances, and of the contiguity of other nations by means of their West India or continental possessions, well informed officers are unanimous in the opinion, that in our next maritime war, the Gulf of Mexico is to be the field in which the great naval battles are to be fought. There the enemy will come with greatest force, and there he must be met with stoutest resistance. With the facilities of well-appointed depots and magazines already established in the West Indies and neighboring islands, the enemy, having the advantage of them, can send out, either singly or in squadrons, his flying steamers, with as much facility, despatch, and effect, as, in a European war, England could send hers against France or any of the Mediterranean powers.

For these reasons, and many others scarcely less obvious, the necessity is imperative, that we too should have in the gulf region, at least one well appointed naval establishment at which our steam vessels of war could be built or repaired, manned, and equipped. There are on the western waters not less than fifteen thousand boatmen, who have no present connection, nor means of a future one, with the navy. Here a most important link to the naval resources of the country is wanting. By establishing a national boat-yard in the midst of them, by carrying on, with their aid, and under their observa-

tion, the naval operations of building and equipping, and by manning our men-of-war steamers from among them, they would become closely and intimately associated with the navy, and in war, would prove a host to it and the whole country. To create a nursery of seamen for the navy, the Government has established the apprentice system. But in the next war *steamboatmen* will be as important as seamen. The west has the former already in training by the thousands; and all that is wanting for the public service to be reinforced by them in war, is the connecting link between these men and the navy. This link is the establishment of a navy yard for steamboats there; a measure as advantageous to the country in peace, as it would be important in war.

But the rendering of the Mississippi boatmen available to the navy in war, we consider merely a collateral advantage which would result to the country in locating the steam portion of the navy chiefly in the west. Many and vast are the national and naval interests there to be fostered and guarded. Their national importance and the claims of the west in the matter, may be judged of in some degree by the subjoined extract which we find in a memorial from the west:

"The extent of the navigation of the western rivers is 12,000 miles. These streams flow through 432,000 square miles of territory. The number of steamboats at present employed is 430. Their aggregate tonnage is 90,000 tons, and their value \$7,200,000. The number of persons engaged in navigating them is estimated at 15,750. The annual cost of transportation, including flat-boats, is \$13,618,000. The tonnage of the steamboats and flat-boats is estimated at two millions of tons; this is equal to the external tonnage of the United States. The value of property annually floating on these rivers is estimated at two hundred and twenty millions. This interior commerce is thus equal to our commerce with foreign nations."

Nearly one-third of the whole commerce of the United States passes out to market through the Gulf of Mexico; and there is not within a thousand miles of this great commercial artery a single naval establishment at which, in case of emergency, a *gun* could be equipped or repaired. We shall refer to this subject at another time.

A Board of Naval Surgeons has been ordered to convene at Philadelphia, on Monday, the 13th inst. for the examination of Assistant Surgeons for promotion. The board will be composed of

Surgeon THOMAS DILLARD, *President*,

" W. S. W. RUSCHENBERGER,

" SAMUEL BARRINGTON,

" WM. MAXWELL WOOD,

" DANIEL EGBERT, *Members*.

The following assistant surgeons have been directed to report to this board:

James C. Palmer, Augustus J. Bowie, John L. Fox, John J. Abernethy, Edward J. Rutter, John T. Mason, J. Malcolm Smith, Charles Wm. Tait, Charles D. Maxwell.

It will be seen, on reference to our navy head, that the rumors we mentioned last week have proved to be correct.

It is understood that Commodore DALLAS will proceed immediately to the Pacific, by the Isthmus of Panama.

The National Intelligencer of Tuesday contains a translation of the Mexican official account of the affair of MONTEREY, with the correspondence, &c., between the United States Commander and the Mexican authorities. "From these papers, making due allowance for the national peculiarities observable in the Mexican documents, and the effect of a double translation of Commodore Jones's letters, (from English to Spanish, and from Spanish again into English,) the reader will arrive at a tolerably fair understanding of the case as between the United States and Mexico."

Lieut Henry J. Hartstene, U. S. N., bearer of despatches from Com. Thomas Ap Catesby Jones, has arrived in Washington.

TEMPERANCE IN THE NAVY.—At a meeting of the U. S. Naval Washingtonian Total Abstinence Society, held on board the receiving-ship Ohio, off Charleston, (Mass.,) forty-eight persons took the pledge, making a total of nearly one thousand who have signed since the first meeting twelve months ago.

At a meeting on the Razee Independence, now lying in Wallabout Bay, one hundred and ninety-eight seamen affixed their names to the pledge.

We have had the pleasure of perusing "a Lecture on the Uncertainties of History," delivered by the Hon. LEVI WOODBURY, before the Capitol Hill Institute, on the 17th of December. "It is not uncertainties in the history of monarchs and battles merely, but those in history, in its broadest sense, including what relates to the literature, and the general progress and great moral movements of society," that form the subject of the discourse. After rapidly glancing at the endless uncertainties in every department of history, the author points out the evils resulting from these uncertainties, and suggests the proper remedies. The lecture is characterized by clearness and largeness of thought, and will richly repay the perusal of any one who desires to promote accuracy of knowledge.

COURT MARTIAL.—A general court martial is ordered to convene at New York on the 1st proximo, for the trial of Commander A. S. MACKENZIE, upon capital charges. The court, we understand, will consist of the following officers:

Captains JNO. DOWNES, GEO. C. READ, W. C. BOLTON, DANL. TURNER, J. D. SLOAT, JOS. SMITH, G. W. STORER, ISAAC MCKEEVER, BENJ. PAGE, JNO. GWINN, THOS. WYMAN; Comm's H. W. OGDEN, and W. W. MCKEAN—Members. WM. H. NORRIS, Esq., of Baltimore, Judge Advocate.—Spectator, January 28.

HYDROGRAPHICAL OFFICE.

WEATHER JOURNAL FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1843.

	Bar.	THERMOMETERS.					Weather.	Portion cloudy.	Wind.
		Atmch.	Sun.	Rad.	Shade.	W. Bulb.			
Monday, 2d,	3 A. M. 30.234	58°	60°	58°	33°	30°	Cirrus stratus.	6.	Calm.
Do,	3 P. M. 30.896	58	60	58	43° 5'	38	Cirrus.	5.	W. N.W.
Tuesday, 3d,	3 A. M. 30.000	63	40	34	33	31	"	4.	West.
Do,	3 P. M. 30.286	55	40	34	26	22	Clear.	"	"
Wednesday, 4th,	3 A. M. 30.480	55	50	42	15	12	"	"	Calm.
Do,	3 P. M. 30.318	58	50	42	35	32	"	"	South.
Thursday, 5th,	3 A. M. 30.222	57	46	27	31	28	Cum. stratus.	8.	Calm.
Do,	3 P. M. 30.176	60.5	46	40	43	38	Clear.	8.	"
Friday, 6th,	3 A. M. 30.246	59	41	32	29	26	Cum. stratus	1.	"
Do,	3 P. M. 30.216	62	64	62	41	39	Nimbus.	1.	"
Saturday, 7th,	3 A. M. 30.166	68			59	54	"		"
Do,	3 P. M.								

Mean variation of the needle for the week, 1° 29' 52" 62 west.
Maximum, do. January 2, at 2 P. M., 1° 34' 52" 75 west.
Minimum, do. January 7, at 4 P. M., 1° 21' 26" 75 west.

HYDROGRAPHICAL OFFICE.

WEATHER JOURNAL FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1843.

	Barometer.	THERMOMETERS.					Weather.	Portion cloudy.	Wind.	Force.
		Atmch.	Sun.	Rad.	Shade.	W. Bulb.				
Monday, 16th,	3 A. M. 30.242	58° 5'	80°	24°	32°	30°	Clear.	"	N. E.	26
Do,	3 P. M. 30.446	61 5	80	86	51	46	Clear.	"	N. W.	Airs.
Tuesday, 17th,	3 A. M. 30.586	64	74	24	33	32	"	"	Calm.	"
Do,	3 P. M. 30.674	63	74	59	48	43	"	"	"	"
Wednesday, 18th,	3 A. M. 30.718	63	62	26	32	31	"	"	"	"
Do,	3 P. M. 30.614	64	62	60	48	44	Stratus.	8	"	"
Thursday, 19th,	3 A. M. 30.500	62	73	26	32	30	Clear.	"	N. E.	13
Do,	3 P. M. 30.389	63	73	70	54	49	"	"	Calm.	"
Friday, 20th,	3 A. M. 30.346	60	80	32	37	35	Cirrus stratus.	3	West.	Airs.
Do,	3 P. M. 30.342	66	80	70	66	58	"	3	Calm.	"
Saturday, 21st,	3 A. M. 30.300	67	90	36	43	37	Clear.	5	"	"
Do,	3 P. M. 30.136	67 5		96	66	60			S. W.	Airs.

Mean variation of the needle for the week, 1° 29' 52" 78 west.
Maximum, do. January 20, at 4 P. M., 1° 33' 42" 25 west.
Minimum, do. January 18, at 10 A. M., 1° 26' 27" 75 west.

Mr. Audubon intends, in a few weeks, starting on an expedition to the Rocky Mountains.

Proceedings in Congress.**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28.

Mr. ADAMS offered the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the proviso to the first section of the act, entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service of the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-two," approved August 4, 1842, be, and the same is hereby, so far modified as to allow of the addition, by promotion, of four commanders in the navy above the number limited and specified by the proviso aforesaid; and if the additions shall be made to the number of commanders as contemplated by this resolution, no further additions shall then be made to the number of commanders in the navy until the whole number shall be again reduced to that authorized by the law hereby modified.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30.

The army appropriation bill being under consideration, Mr. ROOSEVELT moved to amend the bill in the clause appropriating for the MILITARY ACADEMY at West Point, by striking out the pay of the cadets. Rejected.

Mr. MALLORY moved to amend the bill by inserting a proviso that no more cadets should be appointed after the 1st July, unless otherwise ordered by Congress; and that the Secretary of War report, at the next session of Congress, a plan for the reduction of the expenditures of the academy.

Mr. CAVE JOHNSON moved to amend the latter part of the amendment by adding, "and to reduce the number of cadets to one hundred as they gradually go out."

The amendment to the amendment, by ayes 37, noes 99, was rejected.

The question recurring on the amendment,

Mr. DODGE, of Iowa, moved to amend it by adding thereto a further proviso, that in all cases of appointment of cadets the individual selected shall be an actual resident of the Congressional district of the State or Territory from which the appointment purports to be made. Agreed to.

Mr. BARNARD asked a division of the amendment, which was ordered.

And the question was taken, first, on that portion thereof prohibiting the appointment of cadets after the 1st of July; which, by ayes 44, noes 83, was rejected.

And the second branch of the amendment was, by ayes 46, noes not counted, rejected.

Mr. AYCRIGG offered an additional amendment to the amendment, that the Secretary report a plan whereby any person paying his own expenses may be educated at said academy. Rejected.

And the amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. TRIPLETT offered an amendment providing that hereafter no board of visitors should be appointed, unless otherwise ordered by Congress. Agreed to.

Mr. CALHOUN offered an amendment providing that no officer of the army educated at the Military Academy shall hereafter be placed in command in any manner over citizens. Rejected.

Mr. EVERETT moved an additional proviso that the number of cadets should be limited to the number of Representatives and Delegates in Congress; and that each Congressional and Territorial district should be entitled to have one cadet at the said academy. Agreed to.

The appropriation for the board of visitors (in conformity with the vote just given) was stricken out.

The following bill, concerning the naval peace establishment, was reported in the Senate January 25.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the naval peace establishment of the United States, as respects the several grades of officers hereinafter mentioned, shall consist of the following number in each grade to wit: One admiral, two vice-admirals, three rear-admirals, seventy captains, one hundred commanders, three hundred and fifty lieutenants, five hundred midshipmen, one hundred and forty surgeons, seventy pursers, and twenty four chaplains.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That the annual pay of the admiral, when in command of a fleet or squadron, shall be five thousand two hundred dollars; when on other duty, four thousand dollars; and when on leave of absence, or waiting orders, two thousand eight hundred dollars.*

The annual pay of a vice-admiral, when in command of a fleet or squadron, shall be five thousand dollars; when on other duty, three thousand dollars; and when on leave of absence or waiting orders, two thousand six hundred dollars.

The annual pay of a rear-admiral shall be the same as that of a vice admiral.

From and after the passage of this act, the annual pay of the senior captain, as such, shall be the same as that of other captains in the service.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted, That the Secretary of the Navy be, and is hereby authorized, at his discretion, to convene a board of officers, to consist of not less than four nor more than seven members, who shall take into consideration the case of any officer whom he may desire to put on furlough. The decision of a majority of said board shall be final and conclusive; and from the time of such decision, the officer directed to be put on furlough shall be out of the line of promotion, and shall receive pay as now provided for officers on furlough at their own request.*

No officer put on furlough by the decision of such a board, shall be again employed, unless upon the recommendation of a subsequent board, similarly constituted.

In deciding upon the case of an admiral, vice-admiral, rear-admiral, or captain, the said board shall be composed of admirals and captains, as far as circumstances will permit, of officers senior in rank to the individual whose case is submitted to such board. In deciding upon the case of any other officer, the board shall be composed of officers of the same grade, and of such as are senior in rank to the individual whose case is submitted to their consideration; but when, from the nature of the case, this is impracticable, the said board shall consist of a majority of officers taken from the next superior grade.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted, That the members of said board shall be sworn or affirmed by the presiding officer; and the presiding officer shall be sworn or affirmed by the next junior member in rank, to hear and decide each case submitted to them, without prejudice, favor, or partiality. The individual, whose case is to be submitted to such board, shall have due notice given him by the Secretary of the Navy, of the reasons to be submitted to the said board for their decision; and shall have the right to appear before the said board in person, and make such explanations as he may think proper, in writing or by parole.*

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted, That from and after the passage of this act, a ship of the line, frigate, and steamer of the first class, shall be considered as a captain's command, and a sloop of war, and steamer of the second class, as a commander's command.*

NAVY.**Jan. ORDERS.**

- 23—Lieut. A. E. Downes, command of schooner *Grampus*.
Asst. Surg. John T. Mason, navy yard, Boston.
- 24—Commo. A. J. Dallas, command of Pacific squadron.
Mid. F. P. Wheelock, rec'g-ship *North Carolina*.
25—Commr. H. H. Cocks, command ship *St. Louis*.
Purser R. R. Waldron, for duty in connection with arrangement of papers of the Exploring Expedition.
P. Mid. Andrew Weir, frigate *Brandywine*.
P. Mid. Van Rensselaer Morgan, receiving-ship *Ohio*.
Boatswain Alfred Hingerty, store-ship *Eric*.
Mid. W. H. Hudson and George W. Clark, receiving-ship, New York.
- 27—Lt. H. J. Hartstene, leave three months, having returned from Pacific.
Asst. Surg. R. W. Jeffrey, frigate *Brandywine*.
Asst. Surg. Edwin H. Conway, schr. *Grampus*.
P. Mid. George Colvocoressis, receiving-ship *Ohio*.
- 28—Capt. F. A. Parker, command of East India squadron.
Mid. A. McLaughlin, frigate *Brandywine*.
Gunner John Caulk, Carpenter Levi Pease, brig *Truxtun*.

PROMOTION.

By and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Passed Mid. James F. Armstrong, to be Lieutenant from the 8th December, 1842, vice J. W. Cox, deceased.

RESIGNATION.

Jan. 25—Asst. Surg. William Edward Coale.

Naval Intelligence.**U. S. VESSELS OF WAR REPORTED.**

Sloop *Ontario* arrived at New Orleans on the 15th January, in two days from Pensacola.

Officers: Commander, V. M. Randolph; Lieutenants, J. K. Bowie, J. W. Cooke, E. Jenkins; Acting Master, W. Reid; Purser, A. D. Crosby; Passed Mid. P. Wager, Jr., G. Du Buys, and J. B. Kinkead.

SPECIAL SERVICE.—Steamer *Poinsett* arrived at St. Augustine, January 15, and left for her destination, Tampa Bay.

Brig *Oregon* has arrived at Tampa Bay, at which place the survey of the west coast of Florida commences.

Brig *Bainbridge* sailed from Boston, January 25, for Porto Rico. The following is a list of her officers: Commander, Lieutenant Z. F. Johnston; Lieutenants, J. W. Revere, J. B. Marchand, J. J. Almy; Assistant Surgeon, Joseph Beale; Purser, George H. White; Passed Midshipman, G. W. Grant; Midshipmen, R. M. Shufeldt, R. J. D. Price, B. F. Van Nook; Acting Midshipman, E. E. Stone; Captain's Clerk, Wm. Laud, Jr.

HOME SQUADRON.—Sloop *Vincennes* went to sea on Wednesday morning, Jan. 25. Officers: Commander, Franklin Buchanan; 1st Lieutenant, John K. Mitchell; 2nd do., Robert E. Hooe; 3rd do., Montgomery Lewis; 4th do., Richard Wainwright; 5th do., Woodhull S. Schenck; Master, John N. Barney; Surgeon, John A. Lockwood; Purser, Joseph Bryan; Lieutenant of Marines, M. R. Kintzing; Assistant Surgeon, A. A. Henderson; Passed Midshipman, C. R. Smith; Captain's Clerk, Joseph Gideon; Midshipmen, S. Edwards, C. F. Hopkins, Jno Young, Joseph Parish, Charles Gray, J. S. Byers, W. P. Har-

rison, G. B. Douglass; Boatswain, Robert Whitaker; Gunner, John G. Williamson; Carpenter, George Wisner; Sailmaker, T. S. Herbert; Master's Mate, George W. Crosby; Purser's Clerk, Nath. L. Ingolls. Steam-frigate *Missouri*, Captain Newton, arrived at Norfolk Sunday, January 29, in seven days from Pensacola. All well.

Sloop *Falmouth* was left at Pensacola, and would sail in four or five days for Vera Cruz.

PACIFIC SQUADRON.—Sloop *Yorktown* arrived at San Blas, having on board Lieutenant Hartstene, bearer of despatches from Commodore Jones. All well. The following is a list of her officers:

Commander John S. Nicholas; Lieutenants, P. Drayton, Charles W. Pickering, C. F. McIntosh; Acting Master, M. K. Warrington; Purser, Thomas B. Nalle; Surgeon, Wm. L. Van Horn; Assist. Surgeon, Wm. A. Nelson; Midshipmen, Robert Savage, A. F. Warley, Richmond Aulick, H. K. Stevens, H. A. Colborn, H. H. Key, S. S. Bassett, H. G. D. Brown, Paul Shirley; Captain's Clerk, J. T. Page; Boatswain, Edward Cavendy; Gunner, John Martin; Sailmaker, Wm. Ward; Carpenter, Jas. McDonnell; Master's Mate, J. Vansteenburgh; Purser's Clerk, Wm. A. Reed.

PASSENGERS.

SAVANNAH, January 23, per steamer *Gen. Taylor*, from Palatka, Paymaster C. Andrews.

January 26, per steam-packet *St. Matthews*, from Palatka, Paymaster E. Van Ness, Lieutenant S. Van Vliet, Lieutenant Ridgely, U. S. A.

Jan. ARRIVALS AT WASHINGTON.

- 21—Lieut. G. W. Getty, 4th artillery, Georgetown.
23—Capt. W. H. Swift, Top. Eng'rs, Mrs. Ulrich's.
26—Lieut. S. H. Drum, 4th artillery, Gadsby's.
Lieut. T. McCrate, 1st dragoons, Fuller's.
30—Lieut. J. H. Whipple, 5th infantry, do.

Deaths.

On the 29th January, in the 73d year of his age, **NICHOLAS HARPER**, nearly thirty years a clerk in the Treasury Department. The deceased served many years in the navy of the United States, and shared liberally in the esteem and confidence of Commodores Barry, Decatur, and Tingey, Capt. McNeil, and many other gallant officers, who witnessed his conduct in the West Indies in the frigate *United States*, and afterwards in the frigate *Boston* in the Mediterranean, at the blockade of Tripoli.

REVOLUTIONARIES.

In Augusta, Maine, 29th Dec., **NATHANIEL LOVERING**, aged 79.

In New Sharo, Maine, 2d Jan., Capt. **THOMAS FIELDS**, aged 93.

At New Vineyard, Maine, 6th Jan., **JAMES RIDGWAY**, aged 90.

At Marcellus, 18th Jan., **REUBEN DORCHES-TER**, aged 94 years and 11 months.

OFFICIAL ARMY AND NAVY REGISTERS, for 1843, will be published in a few days, and for sale by B. HOMANS, of the Navy Department.
jan12—4t

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

SYNOPSIS OF THE CRUISE OF THE EXPLORING EXPEDITION, by its Commander, Lt. Charles Wilkes, with a chart, showing the tracks of the vessels.

BITUMEN: its varieties, properties, and uses, compiled from various sources, by Lieut. H. Wager Halleck, U. S. Corps of Engineers, under the direction of Col. J. G. Totten, Chief Engineer.